सेनाओं द्वारा गोलाबारी के द्वारा जम्मू तथा कश्मीर में नियंत्रण रेखा एवं अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सीमा के बार-बार और अकारण उल्लंघन किए जाने से शिमला समझौते के अंतर्गत पाकिस्तान द्वारा व्यक्त की गई प्रतिबद्धताओं का उल्लंघन होता है। पाकिस्तान से यह अनुरोध किया गया कि वह अपनी सेनाओं को अत्यधिक संयम बरतने की हिदायत दे और अप्रिय घटनाओं को रोकने के लिए स्थापित राजनायिक एवं सैन्य माध्यमों का इस्तेमाल करें।

Test Agni Missile

344. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether after the successful fourth round of talks with US-Deputy Secretary of State Mr. Talbot, Government had decided to test the modified longer range version of Angi (IRBM); and

(b) if so, the main features of the modified version and the results of the test?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Based on the threat perception, Government had already approved development of a longer range Angi using the state-of-the-art technology developed indigenously. The talks with USA and other interlocutors, during which India have explained to them her security concenrs, have not let to any change in the plan of Agni Progarmme.

(b) Does not arise.

Disposal of quarters at Shakti Nagar Colony, Agra

345. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Director-General (Cantonments) had sought the opinion of Cantonment Board, Agra to dispose of Shakti Nagar Colony quarters to its occupants and a resolution No. VI, dated 30-9-1989 amended on 20-12-1989 was passed by the Cantonment Board, Agra to sell these quarters to their present occupants;

(b) whether an assessment of around Rs. one lakh has been made as the estimated cost for the disposal of each flat, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the estimated cost likely to be fixed for the disposal of each flat of the Shakti Nagar Colony quarters?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A proposal from Director General Defence Estates for disposal of Shakti Nagar Colony quarter is under consideration of the Government.

The question of assessment of cost of each flat will arise only in case Government decides to dispose of these flats.

Long-term defence and technical cooperation with Russia

346. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a high level team led by the Defence Secretary visited Russia in the 1st week of November, 1998;

(b) if so, the composition of the team and purpose of the visit;

(c) the extent to which objects of the visit were fulfilled;

(d) whether there was any written agreement signed with Russia at the end of the visit; and

(e) if so, whether the agreement included long-term defence and technical cooperation and new defence purchases?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (e) In connection with the fifth meeting of the Indo-Russian Group on Military-Technical Co-operation a delegation led by Defence Secretary and consisting of Senior officers from the armed forces and the Ministry of Defence visited Moscow from November 10-12, 1998. The Joint Working Group is responsible for review-

ing and monitoring the progress of the implementation of the on-going long-term programme of military-technical co-operation between the two countries. No bilateral agreement was signed during the visit.

Final findings in the Bofors gun deal

347. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently the Prime Minister observed that the final papers relating to the payments made in connection with Bofors gun deal were expected to reach the country by December, 1998; and

(b) if so, whether these papers, together with the final findings, would be made public and follow-up action initiated against the persons identified as the recipient of the kickback of this controversial deal?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) PM had, recently, stated in a meeting with the Press that some more papers, realting to BOFORs case, are expected to be sent by the Swiss Authorities at an early date, which may even be in the month of December, 1998.

(b) The matter, relating to transmission of remaining documents from Swiss authorities is, however, pending with the Cantonal Court of Geneva. The documents, even after receipt from Swiss authorities, cannot be made public in view of memorandum of understanding dated 20.02.1989, entered into between the Government of India and the Government of Switzerland. Necessary action will be taken after completion of investigation as per law.

Prevention of anti-national elements from joining security forces

348. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether defence recruiting authorities have come across a number of cases where foreigners have tried or succeeded in getting themselves recruited in Indian armed forces and para-military forces on the basis of fake Indian citizenship certificates, particlarly in North-Eastern areas of the country;

(b) the number of such cases detected during the last three years;

(c) whether any enquiry has been held in the matter; and

(d) if so, the details of the same and action taken to ensure that anti-national elements are prevented from joining security froces?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Religious code of conduct for soldiers

349. SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that troops join battle by invoking divine blessings and high morale is fostered/strengthened by their spiritual access to unit Mandirs Churches, Masjids and Gurdwaras; and

(b) if so, whether it is not enjoined upon the Sikh soldiers to follow their religious code of conduct which include keeping unshorn hair and putting on turbans, if so, why the Sikh soldiers have been instructed or allowed to use 'Patkas' instead of turbans?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The official headgear of Sikh personnel in the Army is turban. The Army does not ask any Sikh Soldier to wear a 'Patka'. Apparently, if some troops are seen wearing Patka, it may be on their own accord.